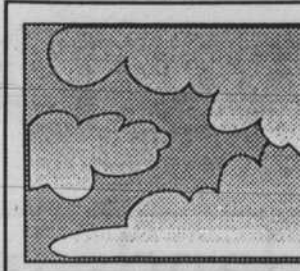


# Daily Nebraskan

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TODAY'S WEATHER

8/0

Today, windy and cold with chance of morning flurries, northwest winds 20-30 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy and cold. Thursday, partly sunny and warmer, high 30-35.

## Senators delay vote on death penalty bill

By Cindy Kimbrough and Sean Green  
Senior Reporters

### Debate centers on role of Pardon Board

After a morning of emotional debate, the Nebraska Legislature laid over LB327, the bill that would eliminate the death penalty in Nebraska.



Legislature

While the bill's sponsors argued that the death penalty is unfair punishment, opponents countered that without the death penalty, appropriate punishment may not be ensured.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, the chief sponsor of the bill, said he introduced it to replace the death penalty with a life sentence without chance of parole.

The Nebraska Pardon Board still would have the authority to mitigate any sentence, even one of life imprisonment, Chambers said.

The death penalty in Nebraska, he said, needed replacing as it is "administered in an arbitrary, random and unfair manner."

It should not be administered unless it is applied across the board, Chambers said.

"How in the world are you going to separate out 12 unfortunate wretches, who, when the roulette wheel was spun, and their number came up, deserved to die, when others who committed worse . . . murders never faces the death penalty because of plea bargains?" Chambers asked.

The bill also is unfair, he said, as several white men were put on death row, but their sentences were changed.

But Sen. LaVon Crosby of Lincoln disputed Chambers' argument that the death penalty was racially motivated. She said that of the 12 men on death row, four were black, one was an American Indian, and seven were white.

This, Crosby said, parallels population ratios in Douglas County.

Chambers also argued that the bill was useless because no one had been executed in Nebraska since Charles Starkweather in 1959.

"What other bill could be on the books for that long of time and never carried out its purpose and be considered a valid law?" he asked.

The death penalty also does not necessarily benefit the victims' families, he said.

Chambers said his nephew was murdered, but that he was not vindictively nursing the issue. If the murderer was caught, he said, he would fight just as hard to see that that person was not executed.

"I'm opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances."

Chambers proposed an amendment to his bill that those given the life sentence serve the maximum sentence with no time subtracted for "good time," or good behavior.

But Crosby argued that Chambers' bill, even with the amendment, was flawed because the Pardon Board could reduce the number of years served

and reduce the harshness of the punishment.

Sen. Elroy Hefner of Coleridge agreed with Crosby that the bill's weight would be reduced because of the Pardon Board power.

South Dakota eliminated its death penalty law several years ago, Hefner said, and voted to reinstate it.

Sen. Carol McBride Pirsch of Omaha said the only way to solve the lessening of a life sentence was to repeal the death penalty and replace it with a life sentence through a constitutional amendment.

"If you are sincere about keeping murderers in jail, it has to be a constitutional amendment," Pirsch said.

Chambers withdrew his amendment and the bill was tabled to a later date.

## Union Board plans new food court

By Kara Morrison  
Staff Reporter

The Fast Break cafeteria service in the Nebraska Union will close in April, and plans for a proposed food court to occupy the vacated space are underway, a Nebraska Union official announced Tuesday night.

Daryl Swanson, director of the Nebraska Unions, said that financial difficulties with the food service area made its closing and the elimination of its 11 employee positions necessary.

Fast Break losses totalled more than \$100,000 in 1988-89, Swanson said, adding that in 1989-90 and 1990-91, losses were estimated at \$97,000 each year.

"I felt a responsibility to stop the bleeding," he said.

Between July and November of 1991 alone, losses totalled \$57,000, Swanson said. Sales also were down 14 percent from the same period in 1990.

The layoff of the 11 employees of the food service area will be effective no earlier than March 20 and no later than the end of April, Swanson said.

These employees, he said, will become pri-



Field Trip

Students from Eastridge Elementary School don their coats after touring Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden Tuesday morning.

Michelle Paulman/DN

See UNION on 3

## Unannounced reductions planned for three colleges

### Spanier to reveal recommendations

From Staff Reports and The Associated Press

Unannounced reductions to the base budgets of three UNL colleges are among the budget cuts Chancellor Graham Spanier will reveal Thursday.

The College of Arts and Sciences, College of Home Economics and Teachers College will face cuts not included in earlier budget reduction recommendations.

Karen Craig, dean of home economics, said vacant positions probably would be sacrificed to comply with the demand for additional cuts to the college's base budget.

"Any cut is difficult, but I understand that the Legislature doesn't think we have enough money for higher

education. So if we have to cut, we have to cut," she said.

Craig said she had been given a specific dollar amount to be cut, but would not reveal this number.

John Peters, dean of arts and sciences, refused to comment, and James O'Hanlon, dean of the teachers college, could not be reached Tuesday.

Stan Liberty, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs, said additional colleges would face reductions in money allotted for temporary instructors. That money is not part of the colleges' base budgets, he said.

Michael Mulnix, executive director of university relations, said Tuesday that Spanier's recommendations were not yet complete.

"Nothing is final," he said. "We're still working on this thing. To really say much right now about the final recommendations would be premature."

### WEDNESDAY

Correction: In a story Monday about new NCAA regulations for athlete eligibility, James O'Hanlon, UNL's athletics faculty representative, was misidentified. The Daily Nebraskan regrets the error.

United Nations peacekeepers arrive in Yugoslavia. Page 2

Women's basketball team faces test in conference opener. Page 7



"Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey" among holiday video releases reviewed. Page 9

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## Bill calls for cultural diversity in state schools

### Teacher denounces educational racism

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick  
Senior Reporter

Several state senators have joined with a teacher from Norfolk to support a bill in the Nebraska Legislature that would require cultural diversity studies in the state's schools.

LB922, introduced by Ernie Chambers of Omaha and co-sponsored by David Landis and DiAnna Schimek of Lincoln, would require Nebraska's primary and secondary schools to develop a multicultural education program and implement it in their curriculum by the 1993-1994 school year.

The bill also would require school districts to provide evidence to the State Department of Education that they are adhering to the proposed law, and require the department to conduct surveys of the multicultural education programs and publish the results.

"I think we need more understanding of cultural diversity," Schimek said. "I guess what prompts me (to support it) is the signs of racism I have seen recently in our society."

Jim Kubik, a government teacher at Norfolk Senior High School and a member of the board of the directors of the Nebraska State Education Association, wrote LB922. He said he became involved with the issue of multiculturalism after a public forum he held in Norfolk on cultural awareness about a year ago.

Sen. Chambers was one of the

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